

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A converter ~~from~~ for converting ECL signals to CMOS signals,
said converter comprising ~~having~~
an input stage,
a level shifter stage connected to the input stage which includes an NFET differential stage, and
an output stage connected to the level shifter stage,
~~wherein the level shifter stage includes an NFET differential stage~~the input stage or the level shifter stage comprising a switching-threshold control system including a simulating network which determines a reference voltage for controlling a switching threshold of the switching-threshold control system.

Claims 2-4 (canceled).

5. (currently amended): A network element for transmitting signals which comprises a converter from for converting ECL signals to CMOS signals, said converter comprising: having an input stage,

a level shifter stage connected to the input stage which includes an NFET differential stage, and

an output stage connected to the level shifter stage,

the input stage or the level shifter stage comprising a switching-threshold control system including a simulating network which determines a reference voltage for controlling a switching threshold of the switching-threshold control system wherein the level shifter stage includes an NFET differential stage.

6. (new): The converter of claim 1, wherein the switching threshold control system further includes current-source transistors and the reference voltage is applied to the current-source transistors to control the switching threshold.

7. (new): The network element of claim 5, wherein the switching-threshold control system further includes current-source transistors and the reference voltage is applied to the current-source transistors to control the switching threshold.